

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TC/A.U. 3761

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:
 - a) a chassis having a front region, a back region and a crotch region, said crotch region connecting said front region to said back region, said front and back regions being secured together to form an absorbent article having a waist opening, a pair of leg openings each having a circumference, and two side panels each located between said waist opening and one of said pair of leg openings;
 - b) an absorbent positioned in at least a portion of said crotch region; and
 - c) a removable portion formed in at least a portion of one of said side panels which intersects a portion of the circumference of each one of said leg openings and enables a portion of one of said side panels to be removed to customize the fit of said absorbent article to a user's anatomy, and said removable portion extending from said front region adjacent to one of said pair of leg openings to said back region and terminates adjacent to said same leg opening.
2. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said removable portion is joined to one of said side panels by a tear line.
3. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 2 wherein said tear line has an arcuate configuration.
4. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 2 wherein said tear line is a perforation line.
5. (Canceled) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said removable portion extends from said front region adjacent to one of said pair of leg openings to said back region and terminates adjacent to said same leg opening.
6. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1 wherein there is at least one removable portion present in each of said side panels and each of said removable portions is joined to one of said side panels by a tear line.

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7. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1 wherein there are at least two removable portions present in each of said side panels.

8. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 7 wherein each of said removable portions in each of said side panels has a different surface area.

9. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 7 wherein each of said removable portions is joined to one of said side panels by a tear line and said tear line aligned closest to one of said leg openings in each of said side panels has a predetermined length and said tear line aligned farther away from said leg opening has a longer length.

10. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a) a chassis having a front region, a back region and a crotch region, said crotch region connecting said front region to said back region, said front and back regions being secured together by a pair of side seams to form an absorbent article having a waist opening, a pair of leg openings each having a circumference, and two side panels each located between said waist opening and one of said pair of leg openings;

b) an absorbent positioned in at least a portion of said crotch region; and

c) at least one removable portion formed in at least a portion of each of said side panels, each removable portion extending from a point on the circumference of one of said pair of leg openings to said respective side seam, and each removable portion enabling a portion of each of said side panels to be removed to customize the fit of said absorbent article to a user's anatomy.

11. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 10 wherein each of said removable portions is joined to one of said side panels by a tear line.

12. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 11 wherein elastic strands surround at least a portion of each of said pair of leg openings and said removable portion positioned adjacent to each of said leg openings has a tear line that extends through said elastic strands.

13. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 10 wherein at least two removable portions are formed in at least a portion of each of said side panels and said removable portion located closest to one of said leg openings in each of said side panels has a smaller surface area than said removable portion located farther away from one of said leg openings.

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14. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 10 wherein said removable portions are void of said absorbent.

15. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 10 wherein there are at least three removable portions present in each of said side panels.

16. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a) a chassis having a front region, a back region and a crotch region, said crotch region connecting said front region to said back region, said front and back regions being secured together by a pair of side seams to form an absorbent article having a waist opening, a pair of leg openings each having a circumference, and two side panels each located between said waist opening and one of said pair of leg openings;

b) an absorbent positioned in at least a portion of said crotch region; and

c) at least three removable portions formed in at least a portion of each of said side panels, each removable portion extending from a point on the circumference of one of said pair of leg openings across one of said side seams and terminating at a spaced apart location on said same leg opening, and each removable portion enabling a portion of each of said side panels to be removed to customize the fit of said absorbent article to a user's anatomy.

17. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 16 wherein each of said removable portions is joined to one of said side panels by a tear line.

18. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 17 wherein each of said tear lines has a semi-circular configuration.

19. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 16 wherein each of said removable portions formed in each of said side panels has a different surface area.

20. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 16 wherein said removable portion located closest to one of said leg openings has a smaller surface area than each of said other removable portions located farther away from said leg opening.